



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. - John Gettinger
Treasurer – Robert Shepherd

V. Pres. – Dave Hacker
Secretary – Dale Brier

July 9, 2014 1:00 pm
Wabash & Erie Canal
1030 N. Washington St.
Delphi, IN 46923

Attendance

Voting Members Present:

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt
Allen County – Rae Schnapp (proxy)
Carroll County - George Mears
Cass County- Arin Shaver
Fountain County - Bob Shepherd
Gibson County - Bill Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Knox County - Rama Sobhani
Miami County - Kenneth Einselen
Parke County – Penny Cox
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Tippecanoe County – Jim Andrew
Vermillion County – Larry Southard
Vigo County – Kara Kish
Wabash County - Mike Beauchamp
DNR – Dale Brier (alternate)

Non-Voting Members Present:

None

Guests:

Jewell Baxter – DNR
Mercedes Brugh
Mary Estrada – DNR Oil and Gas
Don Mathis – Huntington Co (alternate)
Dan McCain – Delphi Historic Trails
Herschel McDivitt – DNR Oil & Gas
Keith Poole – Wabash County (alternate)
Sara Peel – Wabash River Enhancement Corp.
Bill Smith – INDOT

Voting Members Absent:

Jay County – Milo Miller
Warren County - Steve Eberly
Wells County - Scott Elzey

Meeting minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

Acting president Dave Hacker called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. He asked everyone to introduce themselves. Dale Brier announced that Ron Zartman had given his proxy to Rae Schnapp. Hacker added the topic of ADA accessible meeting areas to the agenda under New Business and Kara Kish asked that her presentation be moved to the end of Old Business.

Comments from Visitors and Guests

Herschel McDivitt, the Director of the DNR Division of Oil & Gas made a presentation to the committee explaining where the money for the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) comes from. He said many oil well leases are adjacent to navigable rivers and the agency with jurisdiction or management authority over the property is entitled to receive production royalties. He handed out a spreadsheet/chart summarizing the funds received annually from 2006 until the present. The figures show what each recipient received. He explained that there is a 10% administrative fee collected by Oil and Gas to administer the funds. McDivitt said the increase in

revenue was due to the increase in production of Oil and Gas in Gibson County where operators are using a higher volume hydraulic fracturing on vertical wells. He said the rise in prices of crude oil increased the revenue also. He stated that there are a total of 29 active leases on the Wabash River; most of which are in Gibson, Knox and Posey Counties. Mike Beauchamp asked if there was just one prescribed state lease or are there other leases with different percentages? McDivitt said that they have a standard template that they primarily use for leasing state land. There are regulation requirements for each well and the standard acreage royalties is 1/8. Ralph Weinzapfel asked about state leasing land for horizontal drilling. McDivitt said that there is a lot of interest in that and that there are 2 horizontal wells, however most of the drilling is being done on old leases. Bill Knowles asked about the surface acreage of the new wells being drilled. McDivitt said that they are being permitted at 10-20 acreage units for vertical wells. Dale Brier asked about how often money is transferred from royalties funds to the Wabash Corridor Fund. McDivitt said that it is deposited as it comes in.

Mary Estrada said that she heads the abandoned well program. These abandoned wells pose a risk to public health and safety because the old wells stick up from the ground and can be in the river channel. Herschel McDivitt said that they are looking for partners to help with the removal of the wells. Estrada said there are 84 wells known to have been drilled in the Wabash River area, but they don't know if they are in the water now. They are looking for them and signs are being placed on boat ramps warning of the possible dangers of pipes or debris that could cause damage. She said it costs around \$12,000 to plug a well, but it can cost more once all the equipment needed is brought in. She said that she would like the Commission's help finding and plugging the wells. Dale Brier asked about the river shifting to cover the wells that were once on dry land. Estrada said the river had shifted and that is one of the reasons that they have a hard time finding some wells. Rae Schnapp asked about placing buoy markings, but Estrada said that they have no way of checking them. Jim Andrew asked if Estrada would return to a meeting in 6 months to give the commission an update on her progress. She agreed to return.

Review and Approval of May 14, 2014 Minutes

Dave Hacker asked everyone if they had a chance to review the minutes and if there were any changes to be made. There were no changes. He then called for a motion to accept the minutes. Bob Shepherd made the motion and Jim Andrew seconded. The motion passed.

President's Report – John Gettinger said that they had the Asian Carp event in Merom and it was not well attended.

Finance Report- Dale Brier reported that there was a balance of \$419,000. This amount did not include last grant project amount. Once this is done the fiscal yearend balance would be \$353,460. He said that they needed to set a grant amount. Arin Shaver made a motion to set the limit to \$300,000. Larry Southard seconded the motion. After some discussion about finances, the motion failed. Jim Andrew made motion that the limit be set to \$350,000; Rama Sobhani seconded the motion. The motion passed. The maximum grant amount will remain \$150,000 and the minimum will be \$25,000. Brier mentioned that the criteria are online and that potential applicants should to go online to get information and contact DNR before applying.

Budget Report- Bob Shepherd said his report was similar to Dale Brier's, however the first page of his report represents the budget that was passed two years ago and the second page was the new budget passed at the Turkey Run retreat in March 2014. John Gettinger moved to accept both the financial and budget reports. Jim Andrew seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Committee Report

- **Executive-** No report
- **Banks of the Wabash-** Rae Schnapp said that they talked about Riverfest coming up and the fall cleanup in the Lafayette area. She said they also talked about the Bicentennial project.

Old Business

Funding Request from May 2014 meeting

- **Banks of the Wabash** -Dave Hacker asked for a budget to be presented for the \$3000 request. Ken Einselen said that there isn't one yet; they will be getting together next week to make one. The Wabash would be part of the promotional website. Rae Schnapp said that they do have a website mockup and are trying to coordinate a huge event and they need seed money to do this. She said that this is a statewide project to promote awareness of the Wabash River and its role in Indiana statehood and this would be a way for this commission to support the Bicentennial. A motion was made to table the discussion by Jim Andrew and Ralph Weinzapfel seconded that motion. The motion passed.
- **Posey County Wabash River Float Trip-** Ralph Weinzapfel said that the request was for the "Wonderful Wabash Canoe Trip" on Saturday, August 23, 2014. The trip will start at New Harmony State Park with registration starting at 7:30am. He said the request was to pay for snacks, insurance, canoe rental and transportation cost. Dale Brier asked what the \$1000 was for if the registration fees were going to cover all the costs. Ralph Weinzapfel said that the money will be for transportation and start up cost. The registration cost is \$10+ a \$25 equipment rental fee. Dave Hacker asked that every member raised their hand that was in favor of approval. The request was approved.
- **Newport Chemical Depot Land-** There was no report
- **Sign programs-** Ken Einselen said that there was nothing new to report and he had not received any new information from the counties on their access points or routes. Dave Hacker said there will be no new purchases of signs until they know what they need. Dale Brier reminded the members that there should be state wide recognition for the river route. Hacker said that even if it's on a state road, each member needs to go to their counties commissioner to have the route designated.
- **Asian Carp** – Keith Poole said that Doug Keller from DNR contacted him and said that he will try to get to the next meeting in September. This is not confirmed.
- **Strategic Plan** – Kara Kish lead a 30 minute strategic planning session at this meeting. She said that the strategic plan is to identify what the WRHCC wants to accomplish. She said they needed to set deadlines for getting things done and they needed to stay focused on the plan. The strategic plan includes goals, strategies and tactics on what they want to accomplish. The first thing would be to design it in 2015, review it in 2016, review and update in 2017 and in 2018 redesign it again. The commission came up with two goals to begin with. The first goal was for the members to establish a river road. The second goal would be to distribute grants. She then asked that each member continues to think about what needs to be done and how they will accomplish these things. Kish took notes during the session and will have them for the next meeting.

New Business

- **New funding request-** Dale Brier mentioned the Tribune Star in Terre Haute was taking articles that have been written in the paper about the Wabash River and making a book. He said that they needed a commitment now, but the commission would not be able to get back with them as soon as they needed. Kara Kish said that she would be against it because there was no formal request. No action taken.
- **ADA meeting requirements-** Dale Brier explained that the meeting locations had to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for public meetings. He said that he just wanted to make sure that everyone knew what the requirements are and if they had any questions on the meeting places, please give him a call.

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

- **River Currents-** Dave Hacker said that articles are needed.
- **Upcoming committee meeting-** No report
- **Other county or special event announcements/ Festival dates for next year, etc.** Jim Andrew talked about the Riverfest in Lafayette. He passed out a flyer with information. Don Mathis said that Huntington is having the “Splash on the Wabash” on July 26 - 27. Arin Shaver mentioned the “Taste of Cass County” August 9, 2014 from 5pm-1am. Mike Beauchamp made mention of the float event on July 26, 2014.
- **Final comments by Commission members, alternates, and guests -** Dan McCain spoke on the Grants needing to have a heritage aspect to them. Dale Brier explained the difference between recreational grants and historical grants and how the process works.

Next Meeting - September 10, 2014 in Wabash County at the Wabash County Historical Museum, 1:00pm.

The motion was made to adjourn the meeting by John Gettinger and Jim Andrew seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund

FY14 as of 06/30/2014

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		\$ 188,244.10
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$ 8,449.40	
516003	Payroll Social Security	\$ 596.50	
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr	\$ 253.48	
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	\$ 946.37	
518105	Anthem CDHP1	\$ 601.72	
518107	Payroll Anthem Trad HDHP	\$ 3.69	
518151	Anthem Trad 2	\$ 425.72	
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	\$ 11.78	
518798	Payroll Delta Dental Trad	\$ 52.39	
518800	Anthem Vision	\$ 5.89	
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	\$ 1.37	
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	\$ 144.58	
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	\$ 58.70	
519721	Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	\$ 81.16	
519725	HSA Health Savings Acct 2	\$ 0.17	
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$ 119.35	
547012	Sp Op -Food	\$ 62.25	
571010	Grants - Cities	\$ 7,820.00	
573100	Grants - Nonprofit Orgs	\$ 37,932.00	
591024	NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	\$ 64.88	
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	\$ 6,707.36	
595120	InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	\$ 871.00	
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	\$ 1,847.78	
595170	InState Travel - Parking&Tolls	\$ 15.00	
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	\$ 10,000.00	
659410	Postage	\$ 334.04	

Total FY14 Expense To Date: \$ 77,406.58

Fund Balance:			
	6/30/2013	\$ 613,854.00	last grant
FY14 revenues		\$ 188,244.10	\$65,550
FY14 Expenses		\$ 77,406.58	
FY14 Encumbrances		\$ 305,681.00	adjusted total
balance as of 6/30/2014		\$ 419,010.52	\$ 353,460.52
DNR payroll		\$ 11,632.92	
travel costs		\$ 9,625.37	
sponsorships		\$ 10,000.00	
operating		\$ 396.29	
grants		\$ 45,752.00	
Total		\$ 77,406.58	